Surplus funds in AIIMS

1626. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flagship institute AIIMS continuously registering surplus fund for the last five years however failing to utilize the money allocated to the institute;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to allow commercialization of health care facilities when the institute stands for providing health care to the poorest of the poor and setting standards for medical education, etc;

(c) whether Government is considering not to proceed further commercialization of health care; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Madam. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have reported that the Institute receives lump-sum Grants-in-Aids under Plan and Non-Plan heads from the Government of India for patient care, research and teaching purpose. During the last five years entire Grants-in-Aids under Plan and Non-Plan head was utilized by the AIIMS. The poor and needy patients continue to get the free treatment at AIIMS. Besides, this patients admitted in the emergency wards are provided free treatment irrespective of their economic status.

Banning the sale of Gender Testing Kits

1627. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been received in his Ministry for banning the sale and use of gender testing kits in the country, particularly in the Northern States in view of alarming decline in s[illegible] ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that has been taken by his Ministry on such a request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A news report in the Hindustan Times dated 23.11.2007 indicated that Gender Testing Kits from the U.S. and Canada were available in certain up-markets of Punjab for Rs. 15 to 20 thousand and that certain Genetic Centres were importing/purchasing such kits online in response to the web ads of such kits and selling them to their clients.

The Customs Wing and the Department of Revenue were requested on 29.11.2007 and 5.1.2007 respectively to examine the possibility of intercepting such Gender Determination Kits when imported into the Country under the Customs Act and furnish details of the importers to facilitate the Ministry to take appropriate action against them under the PC & PNDT Act.

In the meanwhile, the Ministry of Women & Child Development requested this Ministry to prevent import of Gender Testing Kits into the country on the basis of same newspaper reported cited above.